



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2023

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT 23-0040 TO ADJUST REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR THE PRENATAL SCREENING PROGRAM AND NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM

This notice is to provide information of public interest about a proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Proposed SPA 23-0040 seeks federal approval to adjust the Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) reimbursement rate for the Prenatal Screening (PNS) Program's cell-free DNA (cfDNA) screening using current Proprietary Laboratory Analyses (PLA) code 0327U, effective November 1, 2023. DHCS requests input from beneficiaries, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning proposed SPA 23-0040.

In California, the PNS Program is administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 124977, CDPH periodically adjusts the PNS Program fee to fully support the Genetic Disease Screening Program (GDSP). Effective September 19, 2022, CDPH split GDSP's current conventional biochemical screening for chromosome abnormalities between a cfDNA Screening Program that screens for chromosomal abnormalities using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 81420, and a Maternal Serum Alpha-Fetoprotein Screening Program (MSAFP) that screens for neural tube defects using CPT code 82105. Currently, CDPH charges a fee for performing these screening tests, for CPT codes 81420 and 82105. cfDNA Screening Program services may also be billed under PLA code 0327U if the manufacturer requirements are met.¹

DHCS is submitting SPA 23-0040 to seek federal approval to adjust the reimbursement rate for PLA code 0327U to align with the participation fee that CDPH charges for cfDNA screening. CDPH charges a participation fee of \$232.00, and this SPA seeks to implement a corresponding FFS rate of \$232.00 for PLA code 0327U, effective November 1, 2023.

¹ <https://www.aapc.com/codes/cpt-codes/0327U>



Additionally, SPA 23-0040 proposes to establish a reimbursement methodology for Newborn Screening (NBS) and Prenatal Screening (PNS) services, providing that DHCS will conduct an annual rate review and adjust NBS and PNS reimbursement rates to align with CDPH's participation fees. Participation fees are set pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 124977(b)(1), and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 6508 and 6540.

DHCS estimates that the annual aggregate Medi-Cal expenditures for the PNS Program will increase by approximately \$5.7 million in total funds, based on the most recent available data at this time. DHCS does not anticipate a fiscal impact associated with the NBS program as there will be no change in reimbursement rate at this time.

The effective date of the proposed SPA is **November 1, 2023**. All proposed SPAs are subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Public Review and Comments

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of Proposed SPA 23-0040 will be published at:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending-2023.aspx>.

If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of proposed SPA 23-0040 using the mailing or email address listed below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Fee-For-Service Rates Development Division
Attn: Provider Rates Section, SPA #23-0040
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4600
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to PublicInput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 23-0040 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments to Proposed SPA #23-0040 may be requested in writing to the mailing or email address identified above.